

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 CEA-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CAB-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 H-01

L-02 /071 W

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R 202255Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5445

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRN, CA

SUBJECT: AEROSPACE INDUSTRY: CANADAI

ACQUISITION AND THE FUTURE OF UNITED AIRCRAFT

REF: OTTAWA 0111

1. GOC FORMALLY ANNOUNCED JANUARY 15 IT HAD OBTAINED FROM GENERAL DYNAMICS NINE-MONTH OPTION FOR PURCHASE OF CANADAI LTD. PLANT IN MONTREAL. PURCHASE PRICE WILL BE \$36.65 MILLION PLUS AN ADJUSTMENT FROM PROFITS REALIZED AFTER JANUARY 1, 1974, NOT TO EXCEED \$1.5 MILLION, WITH TOTAL PRICE NOT IN EXCESS OF \$38.15 MILLION. ANNOUNCEMENT EMPHASIZED THAT GOC NOT ACTUALLY TAKING OVER CONTROL OF FIRM AT THIS TIME. INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE (ITC) MINISTER GILLESPIE ALSO REITERATED PREVIOUS STATEMENTS THAT GOC DOES NOT INTEND OWN AND OPERATE EITHER CANADAI OR PREVIOUSLY ACQUIRED DE HAVILLAND ON A PERMANENT BASIS: "THE SCENE IS NOW SET FOR RESPONSIBLE CANADIAN INTERESTS TO MAKE PROPOSALS TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE OPERATION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE AIRFRAME MANUFACTURING COMPANIES."

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WM ANNOUNCEMENT WARMLY RECEIVED BY MONTREAL GAZETTE.
JANUARY 18 EDITORIAL URGED GOC ALSO CONSIDER
INCORPORATING UNITED AIRCRAFT OF CANADA LTD. INTO
INDUSTRY RATIONALIZATION UNDER DEVELOPMENT. GAZETTE
URGED THIS IN VIEW OF PREVIOUS HEAVY PUBLIC SUBSIDIES
TO A CORPORATION THAT HAS YET "TO REPATRIATE ALL OF
THE PRODUCTION MOVED TO THE U.S. AS A RESULT OF LABOR
STRIKE IN CANADA."

3. COMMENT: REPATRIATION OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STILL
OF CONCERN TO GOC. DOUGLAS ARTHUR, GENERAL DIRECTOR,
TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRIES BRANCH, ITC, HAS TOLD TCO
THAT GOC HAS DIRECTED THE HARTFORD MANAGEMENT TO
ACHIEVE THIS QUICKLY AND TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
FUTURE WHEREBY WORK ON ENGINES FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED
BY GOC IS ONLY UNDERTAKEN AT THE CANADIAN PLANT.
ARTHUR ALSO INDICATED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENT
TO INTERVENE IN YEAR-OLD LABOR DESPUTE BUT IT WOULD NOT
BE SURPRISED IF QUEBEC GOVERNMENT DID SO.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, AEROSPACE INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA00220
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750021-1087
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750137/aaaabgln.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OTTAWA 0111
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AEROSPACE INDUSTRY: CANADAIR ACQUISITION AND THE FUTURE OF UNITED AIRCRAFT
TAGS: EIND, ETRN, CA, GENERAL DYNAMICS, CANADAIR LTD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006